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Agenda item 77

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR
PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/40 A and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994, 1/

Welcoming the signature by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements 2/ and the subsequent implementation agreements,

Commending the work of the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees of the Middle East Peace Process,

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1/ A/49/13 and Add.1.

2/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

Welcoming the appointment by the Secretary-General of a "Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories",

Also welcoming the decision to transfer the Agency's headquarters to its area of operation,

1. Notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees;

3. Endorses the Secretary-General's decision to transfer the headquarters of the Agency, requests the Commissioner-General to implement this decision in a manner which does not adversely affect the efficient and continued running of the Agency in all fields of its area of operation, and requests the Secretary-General to produce a detailed financial plan to present to the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East as soon as possible and in any case before the transfer takes place;

4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) 3/ and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but not later than 1 September 1995;

5. Notes the significant success of the Agency's peace implementation programme during the first year after the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements;

6. Welcomes the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held on 1 October 1993, concerning urgent financial and economic assistance in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, also welcomes contributions by Member States to this end, and urges all Member States to extend and expedite aid and assistance with a view to the economic and social development of the occupied territories;

7. Directs attention to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

3/ A/49/509, annex.

8. Notes with profound concern that the structural deficit problem confronting the Agency portends an almost certain decline in the living conditions of Palestine refugees and, therefore, has possible consequences for the peace process;

9. Calls upon all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including the costs of moving the headquarters to Gaza, and urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.